

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
4 July 1984

SEATTLE

A former Castle Rock school teacher charged with running guns to Pakistan has described how U.S. government agents introduced him to Afghan rebels and gave him weapons to sell to fight Soviet troops, his attorney said.

Eugene Ray Clegg, 37, has named U.S. officials with whom he worked to smuggle the arms, defense attorney Alix Foster told a three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals Monday.

Clegg, who taught science at Mercer Island High School this year while awaiting the outcome of his case, was indicted last year by a federal grand jury for eight felony counts for smuggling weapons to Pakistan between August 1981 and August 1982.

Clegg's defense has been that his actions had the "tacit approval" of the U.S. government.

The case has not yet gone to trial and is before the federal appeals court because the government appealed an order by a federal court in Seattle to turn over classified documents relevant to Clegg's defense.

U.S. District Judge Barbara Rothstein gave the order after privately viewing the classified documents and a sealed affidavit by Clegg. The affidavit has remained sealed, but Foster talked about it Monday before the appeals court.

Clegg named in the affidavit U.S. government officials and their positions in the U.S. Army, the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and the CIA, the attorney said.

Foster said Clegg stated meeting the officials and the connection each had with covert military aid.

Clegg also related in the affidavit how the U.S. officials introduced him to the leader of the Afghan rebels and how American officials provided him with arms, Foster said.

Foster said the U.S. government and Clegg cooperated in a large-scale sale to the Afghans.

The attorney told the court it could see the scope of the covert activity by noting the positions held by the individuals named by Clegg.

U.S. Attorney Jerry Olson argued the government documents should not have been ordered turned over to the courts by Ms. Rothstein. Olson said Clegg would have to show official authorization of his activities in order to use the documents in his defense.

Clegg formerly was employed as a teacher for children of U.S. Embassy officials in Islamabad.

He was indicted in Seattle last year after U.S. marshals spirited him out of Pakistan in March 1983 after he had been arrested, convicted and sentenced to 10 years' hard labor in Pakistan for gunrunning.

The arrest came after Pakistan authorities intercepted a shipment of arms at Islamabad airport in September 1982.

It is not known whether the U.S. government will drop the charges against Clegg if it were forced to turn over the classified documents.